

Our two nations are bound together by a shared history, a common language, and a friendship that reaches back hundreds of years. Now our two countries got off to a rough start. The Crown opposed our independence and then burned the Capitol and the White House in the War of 1812. But Great Britain is not only our oldest enemy but our oldest ally. For over two hundred years our two countries have partnered together to preserve peace and security. From the trenches of WWI to the mountains of Afghanistan, our men and women have spilt blood together on the battlefield. Our relationship is deep and special.

A trade deal represents yet another opportunity to deepen our relationship. The previous Administration threatened to put the U.K. "at the back of the queue" for a trade deal. But that kind of snub to our greatest ally is exactly the opposite of what we should be doing.

A bilateral agreement will enhance the flow of commerce and boost the welfare of our economies. Trade deals that do not help the United States are things of the past. A bilateral trade agreement can be in both our interests.

The U.K. shares many values and business practices with the U.S. Our similarities will help ensure a smooth negotiation process as neither side will be forced into making hard concessions. For example, because Britain's workers are paid at about the same rate as Americans, we do not have to worry about American manufacturers moving factories to the English countryside. Jobs will not be sent overseas. We will be able to streamline regulations and reduce barriers to trade. That means more consumers for U.S. goods. Our two countries already enjoy close economic ties. No country receives more investment from Britain than the United States. And the United States is the largest investor in the United Kingdom.

In my home state of Texas, the U.K. is the number one foreign direct investor. It sends over \$2.5 billion dollars a year into the Texas economy. This investment has helped to bring more than 87,000 jobs to hardworking Texans. Texas is a great place to do business. The British people see that. But these kinds of gains are not limited to Texas alone. Every day over a million Americans go to work for British companies based in the U.S. It is critical that we turn our backs on trade. Houston is dependent on the free flow of goods. Over 50 percent of the city's economy is based on the Port of Houston. But that does not mean the United States has to give away the farm to get a trade deal done. We can have free and fair trade. We can level the playing field for American businesses, give American goods better access to consumers around the world, and increase American jobs.

The new Administration has expressed its preference for bilateral deals over more cumbersome multilateral agreements. A bilateral deal with the U.K. is a great place to start. Once the U.K. is able to throw off the shackles of the EU's restrictive trade policies, there will be better opportunities for job growth and investment.

A free trade deal between the United Kingdom and the United States will be an important symbol of our dedication to promoting economic freedom. Together we can come up with the gold standard of trade deals. This deal could serve as a model for future deals

or maybe even opened up for other nations to join.

The geopolitical effects of a trade deal may be just as important as the deal itself. This deal can send a message to those opposed to our shared values of freedom and liberty that the United States and the United Kingdom are standing strong together.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF VED
VENGSAKER ACHIEVING A PERFECT
SCORE ON THE AMERICAN
COLLEGE TEST

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Briar Woods High School's very own Ved Vengsarker on achieving a perfect score on the American College Test (ACT)—a respected college admissions test in the United States. Ved, now a high school junior, began studying diligently last summer in preparation, reviewing his ACT books during the week and taking several practice tests each weekend. His perfect score is not only a testament to his hard work and dedication, but also the exemplary teachers and faculty at Briar Woods High School located in Ashburn, Virginia who helped cultivate Ved's intellectual intrigue.

Each year less than one-tenth of a percent of the ACT test-taking population receive a perfect score. Ved is a self-driven individual who understands the need to prepare early and continue practicing until you achieve your goal. It is young, hardworking students like Ved who will help Loudoun County, Virginia's 10th District, and even the United States grow tremendously in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ved Vengsarker for achieving a perfect score on the ACT test. It is a privilege to represent him, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
BOBBIE SUMMERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Bobbie Summers for her outstanding work with the Social Security Administration (SSA) and to congratulate her on her retirement after 40 years of dedicated service.

Bobbie began her career with the Social Security Administration in 1976. She was hired for a Claims Representative position in Hanford through the outstanding Scholar Program. After her time in Hanford, Bobbie worked as a Claims Representative in Southeast Fresno, West Fresno, Fresno Downtown and as Operations Supervisor for the Madera SSA office. In 1984, Bobbie was promoted to an Operations Supervisor position in the Fresno SSA office. In 1990, she was promoted to Branch Manager in Carmel. Bobbie returned to Fresno in 1993 as an Operations Supervisor. In 2003,

Bobbie was accepted for the Regional Leadership Development Program where she worked in the SSA Office of Public Service and Operations Support on the SDW ramp up initiative. In 2004, she was promoted to Assistant District Manager in the Fresno office, and later that year, she accepted a yearlong detail to the SSA Office of Public Service and Operations Support where she worked on the cross program recovery project. Bobbie was promoted to Level 1 District Manager position in the Southeast Fresno SSA office in 2005 where she served until 2008. In 2008, she was given a detail in the SSA Central Office to assist with the transition for the newly formed SSA Office of Disability Determinations Division. She returned to her Level 1 District Manager position in 2009.

Bobbie's ongoing hard work and dedication resulted in many awards throughout the years. Some of the awards she received are: The Commissioner's Citation, Deputy Commissioner's Citation, Regional Citation and Commissioner's Team Award.

It is with great pleasure that I applaud Bobbie Summers for her many years of tireless work on behalf of the United States government.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that in addition to her countless gifts to the Social Security Administration and our community, Bobbie has been a true champion for my constituents. In my office, a majority of our constituent casework involves the Social Security Administration. These are sensitive cases that can sometimes take a great deal of time to resolve. One member of my Fresno staff, Ms. Kelly Gill has worked closely with Bobbie Summers on Social Security issues for over twenty years and proudly recollects Bobbie always being available to discuss cases and work together on issues of concern. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the commitment, dedication and success of Bobbie Summers and wish her well as she embarks on new endeavors.

HONORING COWGIRL CREAMERY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cowgirl Creamery and its founders, Sue Conley and Peggy Smith, in honor of the 20th anniversary of this artisan cheese company, which has over the past two decades been a leader in the evolution of the local, state, and national artisan cheese market.

Opened in 1997, the idea of Cowgirl Creamery began years earlier when Sue and Peggy, each with twenty years of culinary experience, settled in Point Reyes Station in West Marin, California. Inspired by local agricultural matriarch Ellen Straus and her son, Albert Straus, who established organic milk producers west of the Mississippi, Sue and Peggy decided to combine their culinary expertise and environmental stewardship ethos to create an artisan cheesemaking business. Several years after purchasing a barn in downtown Point Reyes Station, and after renovating, restoring, and acquiring the permits to open Tomales Bay Foods as a distribution company, Cowgirl Creamery was opened.